

7 Panthers Will Refuse To Testify

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CHICAGO, May 12 (UPI)—Seven Black Panthers arrested after a raid in which two of their leaders were shot to death will refuse to testify before a federal grand jury, Illinois Panther Party Chairman Bobby Rush says.

"Our people will appear but they will refuse to testify before the grand jury because it is not composed of our peers," Rush told a news conference Monday.

He said the "political decision" was made during a party conference.

The seven were arrested by state's attorney's police in a predawn raid Dec. 4, 1969, when Illinois Party Chairman Fred Hampton and organizer Mark Clark were shot to death.

The seven survivors were charged with attempted murder when the raiding party said guns were fired at them. The charges were dropped Friday at the request of Cook County State's Attorney Edward V. Hanrahan.

The grand jury is investigating possible violations of federal civil rights statutes in connection with the raid.